

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A control device ~~for establishing an information output ranking of a plurality of information sources including audio sources, comprising:~~

~~an a storage device arrangement for storing establishing the information output ranking in pairs for the an audio sources in an information audio-output matrix set-up having a nonlinear order with respect to plurality of matrix elements, each matrix element associated with a pair of audio sources from a plurality of different audio sources, including at least first, second and third matrix elements, wherein the first matrix element indicates if a first audio source can interrupt a second audio source, the second matrix element indicates if the second audio source can interrupt a third audio source, and the third matrix element indicates if the third audio source can interrupt the first audio source; and~~

~~an arrangement for outputting a selected one of the plurality of information from the audio information sources to a common information[[-]]output device,~~

~~wherein the control device is configured to manage audio output interruption requests from the plurality of different audio sources as a function of the matrix elements of the audio-output matrix, wherein the managing includes a non-linear mode in which, if indicated by the matrix elements, the first audio source can interrupt the second audio source, the second audio source can interrupt the third audio source, and the third audio source can interrupt the first audio source.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The control device as recited in Claim 16, further comprising a selection device for selecting different attributes which are assigned to the matrix elements of an audio information[[-]]source pair.

18. (Previously Presented) The control device as recited in Claim 17, further comprising an input device for inputting the matrix elements together with the selected attributes.

19. (Previously Presented) The control device as recited in Claim 16, further comprising a video screen.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The control device as recited in Claim 16, further comprising a management device for managing the plurality of audio ~~a series of information~~ sources in a waiting list.

22. (Currently Amended) The control device as recited in Claim 16, wherein the common information~~[[]]~~ output device is at least one of a loudspeaker and a headphone.

23. (Currently Amended) A control method ~~for establishing an information output ranking of a plurality of information sources including audio sources~~, comprising:

~~storing establishing the information output ranking in the form of an information audio-output matrix for pairs of audio sources, wherein the information output matrix has a nonlinear order with respect to~~ having a plurality of matrix elements, each matrix element associated with a pair of audio sources from a plurality of different audio sources, including at least first, second and third matrix elements, wherein the first matrix element indicates if a first audio source can interrupt a second audio source, the second matrix element indicates if the second audio source can interrupt a third audio source, and the third matrix element indicates if the third audio source can interrupt the first audio source;

~~determining priority of a corresponding information source with respect to another information source using matrix elements from the information output matrix; and~~

~~outputting a selected one of the plurality of information from the information audio sources to a common~~ information~~[[]]~~ output device; and

~~managing audio output interruption requests from the plurality of different audio sources as a function of the matrix elements of the audio-output matrix, wherein the managing includes a non-linear mode in which, if indicated by the matrix elements, the first~~

audio source can interrupt the second audio source, the second audio source can interrupt the third audio source, and the third audio source can interrupt the first audio source.

24. (Currently Amended) The control method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising wherein selecting different attributes of the matrix elements which are each assigned to an audio information source pair ~~are selected.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The control method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising individually entering into an input device ~~wherein~~ the matrix elements of the ~~information~~ audio-output matrix ~~are individually entered into an input device.~~

26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) The control method as recited in Claim ~~[[26]]~~ 23, further comprising the step of selecting, based on an attribute of a matrix element assigned to an audio information source pair, between relieving and interrupting the corresponding audio information source that is active longer.

28. (Currently Amended) The control method as recited in Claim ~~[[26]]~~ 23, further comprising selecting between an abrupt transition and a smooth cross-fading between two audio information sources.

29. (Currently Amended) The control method as recited in Claim ~~[[26]]~~ 23, further comprising selecting between separating and superposing two corresponding audio information sources.

30. (Currently Amended) The control method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising forming a waiting list having an order of the audio information sources, using attributes of the respective matrix elements.

31. (Currently Amended) The control device of claim 16, wherein each matrix element indicates the interruption ~~determines the~~ priority of a particular first audio source, of the

plurality of different audio sources, with respect to another second audio source of the plurality of different audio sources.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Previously Presented) The control device of claim 16, wherein each matrix element includes an ~~has first and second~~ attribute, ~~wherein the first attribute determines the priority of a first audio source with respect to a second audio source, and the second attribute determines~~ indicating a manner of interruption of a higher priority one of the two associated ~~first and second~~ audio sources with respect to a lower priority one of the two associated ~~first and second~~ audio sources.

34. (Canceled).

35. (New) The control device of claim 16, wherein the plurality of different audio sources are audio portions of a plurality of different information sources.

36. (New) The control method of claim 23, wherein the plurality of different audio sources are audio portions of a plurality of different information sources.

37. (New) The control device of claim 33, wherein the manner of interruption selects between a new audio source relieving a previous audio source or the new audio source temporarily interrupting the previous audio source.

38. (New) The control device of claim 33, wherein the manner of interruption selects between an abrupt transition from a previous audio source to a new audio source or a smooth transition from the previous audio source to the new audio source.

39. (New) The control device of claim 33, wherein the manner of interruption indicates whether a new audio source is superimposed on a previous audio source.